

SUPPLEMENT.

The Mining Journal, RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE:

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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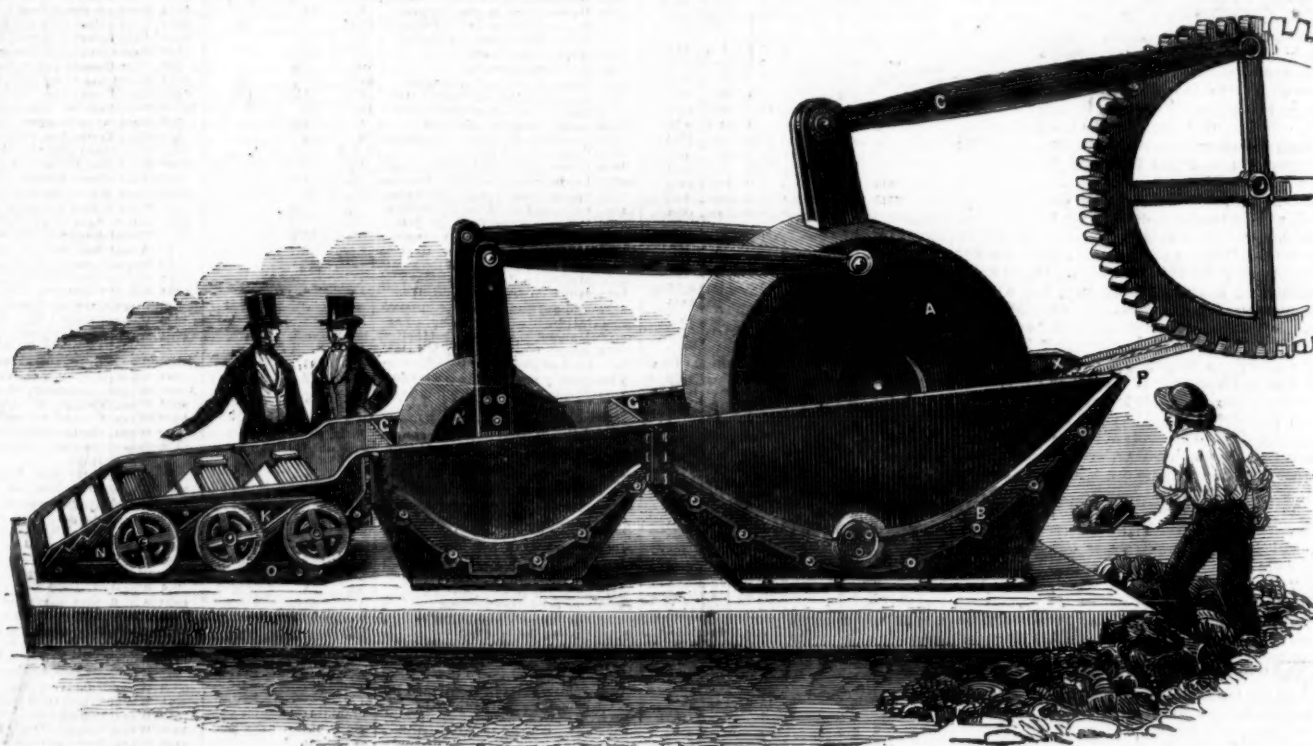
LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

[GRATIS.]

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

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R. COLLYER'S PATENT CALIFORNIA QUARTZ CRUSHER, TRITURATOR, AND GOLD EXTRACTOR.



EXPLANATION OF ENGRAVING.

Main crusher, 6 feet in diameter, weight 6½ tons, and if found necessary can be increased to 10 tons, by filling it with quartz sand—this is so constructed, that when one portion is sufficiently worn, a surface can be presented; B, concave bed-plate, 6 inches thick; meeting rod, which may be attached to any motive power of from 12 horse; G, coarse screen; A, triturator, weight 2 tons, which can be raised to 3½ tons by being filled with quartz sand, if necessary; H, screen, 60 to 70 meshes to the inch, through which all the ore has to pass before it enters the amalgamator proper; K, amalgamator; O, plug for off mercury or amalgam at pleasure; P, water pipes; N, riffles; M, washing chamber, into which the ore is thrown of the size of 6 lb. The machine presents 4242 square inches of crushing surface, being equal to the action of 30 stampers, each weighing 500 lbs.

Collyer, in introducing another machine for the purpose of crushing and extracting gold, seems determined that it shall stand or fall by its merits. One advantage he represents his machine to possess over all introduced is the simplicity of construction, while it reduces to palpable powder at least 20 tons of ore per day, and saves all the old without the aid of any other apparatus. It has been contended by some of the first mining authorities of the day, that the crushing and amalgamating process can never be conducted successfully together; and the machine we are now describing this objection is surmounted, as the crushed ore does not enter the amalgamator until it has passed through a screen, 60 or 70 meshes to the inch, and then it is thoroughly impregnated with the mercury.

Collyer is an American by birth, but was educated in this country at London University, and took his degrees in the United States: he does not claim to be a mechanic, but a practical miner, metallurgist, and chemist, having had much experience in South America, Mexico, and California; and Mr. Frederick Saunders, the constructing engineer at the Allaire Works, has decided that mechanically the invention was free from any objection. It scours or rubs off the oxides, sulphurets, arsenic, talcose iron, &c., which coat the particles of gold, and prevent amalgamation. It also preserves the mercury in bulk—that is, it does not divide it into minute globules. This is considered important, as the division is detrimental to the action of affinity which the mercury otherwise has for the gold. The machine is easily cleaned out without stopping the steam-engine; and from its extreme simplicity of construction, it is unlikely to get out of order.

The great desideratum in all mechanical contrivances is to get rid of the material when sufficiently acted upon, otherwise it interferes with the execution. This is particularly applicable to the crushing of ores. The convenience and novelty of the amalgamating arrangements have, we are informed, been proved in practice to save at least 30 per cent. more than any other process, in consequence of their combining the chemical and mechanical conditions hitherto neglected. The operation may be described as follows:—The quartz rock is thrown in at X, where a stream of water enters; motion to the roller is given by a connecting rod; the stuff then passes through a coarse screen, G, into the smaller concave bed-plate, B; from thence through a screen, 60 to 70 meshes to the inch; and is afterwards forced through mercury, heated by steam, in the amalgamator, K. The model is well worthy the inspection of those interested in gold mining. A large machine is being constructed at Messrs. Ransomes and Sims, of Ipswich, and which will be immediately put to public test and use.

"PALMAM QUI MERUIT FERAT."

SIR,—Having just arrived in England, and perceiving my name associated with rival inventors, I deem it an act of courtesy to inform them and the mining community, that it is not my disposition to wage war by resorting to abusive or invidious particular comparisons relative to the various machines for the reduction of ores, and saving the gold therein contained—such a course of conduct must ultimately recoil to the disadvantage of the scurrilous assailant: it also augurs badly for the invention; for the scientific and practical miner will soon discover whether the appliances are such as to meet the long-required desideratum—namely, economy of power, rapidity and efficacy of execution, durability, simplicity, and the capability of saving the fine gold confined in the sulphurets, arsenurets, oxides, ferruginous decomposed quartz, talco-micaceous slate, &c., which has been hitherto lost.

In the United States, within the last two years, various machines for this purpose have been brought to public notice; none, however, have had but an ephemeral existence in practice at the mines—some were worn out in a few weeks; others only ground a small quantity of ore daily, which had to be previously reduced to gravel-size by the aid of stampers; while others lost their spherical form. None of these did, or ever could, act as efficient amalgamators—they all cut up the mercury, which was found in the tailings with amalgam in large quantities. The farcical idea of recovering the gold at the crushing point, which some inexperienced persons have considered essential, is the cause of this great loss of mercury and fine gold. The temporary notoriety which some machines obtained in America was occasioned by the entire absence of every requisite adapted to practical operations. This circumstance has had an evil tendency, in rendering capitalists extremely cautious to all untried and new inventions. For let it be remembered that a few tons operated on in small parcels is no criterion of the excellence of any machine. If 100 tons were to be acted on continuously, then an approximation of the machine's capacities might be arrived at.

My invention was made at the mines in California early in the year 1851. I had a small-sized machine built in San Francisco, merely as an experiment. I took it to Grass Valley, and put it into operation. In testing the tailings or refuse from the stamping mills I recovered about four dollars to the ton, besides much floured mercury. Though my experimental machine was defectively made, I became convinced that the principle employed by me (i.e., trituration), was correct, and only required to be tried on a large scale to effect the desired end.

I visited all the mining regions in California, analysed the refuse from the different mills, and in 1853 took passage for New York. I presented my model and drawings to Frederic Saunders, Esq., constructive engineer of the Allaire Iron-Works, New York, who at once decided that, mechanically my invention was free from any objection; whereupon the managers of the works, Messrs. Secor and Breasted, undertook to make a large sized machine at their own expense, which was completed in Dec. last, and found to surpass my most sanguine expectations—crushing, pulverising, and tritulating at least 1 ton each hour of the toughest and hardest ores to an impalpable powder; dispensing with the use of stampers or any other crushing apparatus. So perfect is the amalgamating process, that during 24 hours' active operation not one globule of mercury was lost. These results are accomplished at an expenditure of from 8 to 10-horse power; convincing the mining community that at last the object so long sought for has been achieved. Messrs. Secor and Breasted became the purchasers of one-third of the United States patent, for the sum of \$50,000, and are now executing orders for Mr. Goodell, of North Carolina; Mr. Lemuel Williams, president of the Transportation and Mining Company of North Carolina; Mr. J. B. Halsey, of California; and J. B. Tournier, of Mexico—making in all 12 machines in progress of construction. The above-named gentlemen are experienced practical miners. I have just received the British patent, and will forthwith have full-sized machines constructed and put in operation in London and at the mines, when the

English mining public shall judge for themselves. All I ask until then is a suspension of judgment as to the relative merits of any other machine. I am sorry to see, in perusing your Journal, that what should be honourable rivalry has descended to personal abuse and vulgarity. When my machine is finished, if it does not excel all others I hope to retire from the field with the consciousness that, having had to contend with honourable foes, I will not have received a dishonourable wound.

4, Norfolk-street, Strand, April 5.

R. H. COLLYER, M.D.

P.S. My model will be shown to those specially interested any day between one and two, p.m.

The following are selected from numerous communications addressed to Dr. Collyer:—

New York, March 15.—In compliance with the request of a friend who desired my opinion, I have examined the construction, and witnessed the operation, of your quartz crusher and gold extractor. This instrument presents, in combination with the very unusual and desirable element of trituration, that of solidity of structure, facility of reduction of an ore, and effective and economical amalgamation of the metal. I am of opinion, therefore, all things considered, that your mineral crusher and gold extractor is the best one I am yet acquainted with.

CHAS. H. HASWELL,
Consulting and Superintending Engineer; late Engineer-in-Chief of the U. S. Navy Department, Brooklyn.

New York, March 17.—We have examined your quartz crusher and amalgamator, and have seen it in operation; and can with great pleasure state that it is the only thing of the kind we have yet seen that is at all calculated to grind or crush quartz rock or any other hard substance to a fine powder, and these machines of yours have done it to admiration.

J. BREASTED, } Managers of the Allaire Works.
T. F. SECOR, }

New York, March 1.—I have followed the occupation of mining in Mexico for the last 20 years. I am acquainted with all the novel inventions of the day: none, however, can be compared to yours for the remarkable ease with which it reduces the toughest and hardest ores to the most impalpable flour. For durability, excellence in execution, and economy of power, your machine stands alone. The amalgamating process only requires to be seen in order to be at once appreciated by the practical miner.

J. B. TOURNIER, Mining Engineer.

New York, Feb. 20.—In Mexico and California I have been for many years superintendent of the working of mines for silver and gold. I witnessed the operation of your machine at the Allaire Works, when above 10 tons of hard ore was reduced to a fine powder in eight hours. Your method of amalgamation possesses the rare quality of preserving the mercury in bulk; for, after the operation, not one grain could be discovered in the tailings by the most careful washing. I am of the opinion that you have attained the long-desired object, and that the mining community cannot remain indifferent to the merits of a machine so simple, so effective, so durable, and which cannot fail to save the fine gold which has been previously lost by all other machines.

J. B. HALSEY, Mining Engineer.

TO MESSRS. RANSOMES AND SIMS, IPSWICH.
Allaire Works, New York, Feb. 28.—In bringing before your notice the quartz crushing machine, of which the accompanying sketch is a representation, I do so with much confidence, having during the last three months put it to a most severe and complete test. Dr. Collyer, the patentee, who has been practically mining in the gold regions of California, presented his model at these works some six months since, and so forcibly was I struck with its combination of the required movements, simplicity of construction, and durability, that upon my representation the managers at once consented to make one upon their own risk. The machine has accomplished more than our most sanguine expectations. You will at once perceive that it admits of one of the most direct, simple, and effectual applications of the power, which power is but little more than is required to roll the two crushing rollers up their respective inclined planes, their own weight causing them to slip back again, thereby causing a most perfect crushing and pulverising action. In the machine we have at work, the large roller is 6 ft. in diameter, the small one 3 ft., and weighing about 6 and 3 tons; and with about 10-horse power we can crush easily a ton of quartz per hour, reducing it from pieces 2 in. cube to an impalpable powder. The fact of the machine admitting such large pieces being fed in without detriment to it is a feature greatly in its favour. Mr. Berdan's machine, which made quite a furor here for awhile, and, I hear, is doing so now in England, was the best that had been brought before the public previous to Dr. Collyer's; but several gentlemen who have had the machine in operation, and since called upon us, agree that it is a comparative failure, and have offered the machines at old iron price, after using them but a short time. Both scientific and practical men concur in stating that the amalgamating process, as applied in Dr. Collyer's machine, is most perfect, as it keeps the mercury in a body, whilst in Mr. Berdan's process it is cut up into innumerable particles. At Dr. Collyer's request, to name some firm most calculated to carry out his views, should they be disposed to enter into them, I have penned this to you. Where there is a market for a crusher and pulverising machine, I have no doubt Dr. Collyer's will take the precedence, and prove an advantageous undertaking to all parties connected with it.

FREDERICK SAUNDERS, Constructing Engineer at these Works.

NOTES ON GOLD SURVEYS IN WALES.—No. VI.

BY JOHN CALVERT, ESQ.

Clogau has naturally attracted much attention of late, and has created great excitement on account of the very rich specimens from it, which have been shown in Merionethshire and London. I was informed by the Messrs. Sherwood and by Mr. Goodman that the discovery which so lately took place of these rich gold ores was in consequence of the examination of some rejected stuff on the surface from the old copper workings, which had been abandoned many years ago. It is supposed that gold not being thought of in those days as existing in the country, the stuff was thrown away as inferior copper ore; otherwise, the appearance is so remarkable that in the present day it could not escape attention. The surface has become grass grown; but on investigation some of the earliest lumps broken showed rich incrustations of metal, which were readily recognised as gold. Such proofs were obtained of its richness, that the owners caused the entire of the stuff to be secured in the offices of the mine, where I saw it, and where Mr. Goodman was kind enough to break me off a specimen.

In the Clogau office I saw the stuff lying in large blocks of some hundred weights, showing gold all over, beautifully disseminated; and the metal standing out in many cases on the surface of fracture. In several of the large blocks were the marks of the bore—the gold being welded by the action of boring. The ore I examined was highly promising in one point, that a great quantity of it was of general uniform richness—the gold standing out prominently from the quartz. The stuff having been exposed to the weather for some 18 years, the abrasion of the atmosphere had acted to expose the gold, and likewise the decomposition of the pyrites, which has coloured the surface with a rich brown tint.

It would be difficult to form an estimate of the exact value, or of the actual yield of the mass of quartz carted away from the ground; but some of it will most probably be from 2000l. to 3000l. a ton, judging by the rate of the specimens I saw. As to the value of the mine itself, few would like the responsibility of drawing up an estimate. A few fathoms of the lode would yield, if it held down, perhaps a million or two; and great confidence is expressed by the owners as to its extent. No one who sees the specimens can doubt their richness. The most unpracticed eye will observe the gold; whereas in the common form of ores the gold is seldom visible to the naked eye, nor always to the microscope, though gold is commonly easily recognised, as it is generally found in its natural metallic state. I may observe, by-the-by, that some dispute has taken place with regard to this Clogau stuff, and other minerals containing gold, being gold ore or not. On the supposition that gold is always mechanically and never chemically combined, it is denied that the public are right in speaking of gold ores at all, as it is imagined that an ore must be a chemical combination of a metal, and that native metal does not constitute an ore. Such a distinction has been attempted to be drawn by some modern writers endeavouring to reverse the meaning of the word; but I am not aware that there is sufficient authority for the innovation. Ore is not a word derived from the continental scientific vocabulary, but a word purely English, of Anglo-Saxon authority, and having correlatives in most of the Germanic languages. Being a little fearful lest I may have sinned in following the general meaning of the word "ore," instead of that suggested by some of the writers on mineralogy, I have looked into the dictionaries, and I find that the word "ore," "oar," or "ora," has been used by writers and speakers from the Anglo-Saxon times downwards to express any minerals containing metal. There is some reason to believe that the word was first applied to minerals of copper—that sense being retained in some of the languages, green copper, or "aurichalcum," is quoted by Bosworth as being called "arene ora" in Anglo-Saxon. Ore is called "erz" in German, and "oer" in Dutch. The term was commonly used in the middle ages, and especially applied to minerals containing gold. The popular meaning is justified by numerous authorities in Johnson, Bosworth, and Richardson. Webster has quoted the narrower meaning from Olenstedt; I believe, therefore, that it is still perfectly justifiable to speak of "metal," or "a vein of metal," as an ore, without regard to any fanciful distinctions.

Clogau is in South Merionethshire, about three miles north-west of Dolgelly, and five miles north-east of Barmouth as the crow flies. It is one of a series of spurs or small mountain chains running towards the Barmouth or Mawddach estuary, into which fall two brooks—one rising on each flank. Clogau will be found on the Ordnance Geological or plain sheet, No. 75 south end, and the neighbouring country on No. 59. The south of the chain near the estuary is worked for copper; but this is not included in what I am now speaking of as the Clogau sett, which occupies the northern part of the chain. Clogau range is parallel to the Vigra spurs and Prince of Wales, and it belongs, therefore, to the latter neighbourhood, but connected with the Dolfrwynog and Cwmheisan gold districts. The old level that was put into Clogau was driven about 20 yards. The Clogau sett consists of a series of parallel lodes. The gold lode runs east-north-east, dipping north. It may be traced for some distance, taking its start from the Vigra Mines, coming into the sett through Ton-y-cornel on the western side, and seeming to run regularly for the mountains having the Ordnance flagstaff, or Craig-y-Cay; and thence, with parallel lodes, more or less prominently showing themselves, and traceable through the country, it seems to proceed to North Dolfrwynog and Cwmheisan. In the immediate vicinity of the gold lode I found an accompaniment which seems to be prevalent in Wales—namely, a laminated gritstone, but which is in many places so altered and metamorphosed as to suggest the immediate neighbourhood of igneous action, most probably represented in the form of compact greenstone. Again, I observed chlorite schist, more or less evident here and there, lying beneath the grit. This chlorite seems a never-failing accompaniment of gold quartz with these lodes. In many places where the grit was lying horizontally in the vicinity of a vein, I found it thickly disseminated with large cubes of sulphure of iron. These cubes all decompose on the rock being exposed to the action of the atmosphere. On going on to the top above the level, the lode is very strong, and appears squeezed in some places, and very upright at the surface, although with every indication of dipping very much to the north as you get down. The vein is highly ferruginous; and just at the point above where the gold was obtained from the lode seems distorted, and has evidently a twist, most probably from the immediate vicinity of trappean or other igneous disturbance. The laminated gritstone, or sandstone, is very much distorted; and here and there the clay-slate becomes uncovered, and is of a highly-promising character for metalliferous products. Greenstone shows itself in the immediate neighbourhood of Clogau and the other setts. The Flagstaff Hill, or Craig-y-Cay, I have likewise examined. It lies east-north-east from Clogau, and is a high, prominent, barren-looking ridge. At the top of the mountain I found the laminated gritstone lying horizontal; whereas on the flanks it was lying at a little more incline than the angle of the mountain. In some places the gritstone was so much metamorphosed, that out of the same locality such different specimens of rocks would be obtained that they would be regarded in succession sedimentary and igneous. In the places where it is mostly altered, it is to be found approaching to a columnar character. I have often noticed, both in America and Australia—in the latter more especially—this columnar characteristic which these sandstones assume, frequently deceiving the casual inspector, and causing him to note it down as of basaltic or trappean formation, whereas it is merely sedimentary rock, highly altered in its external or crystalline character by being in the vicinity of true igneous rocks.

Here are many quartz veins and occasional beds found crossing with the grit, and some lying at the same angle with it. At one point it seems in meeting a strong quartz vein to widen it excessively a little south of the point of junction, and to twist it rather out of its course. Here is a show of various metallic arrangements; and upon examination this proves to be one of the places in which gold exists.

The chlorite schist, which I have already remarked as an indication worthy of notice, is associated with the quartz in the neighbourhood, and becomes promising for metal. The surface is likewise strongly coloured with oxide of iron; the vein here, as at Clogau, is found dipping north. While engaged in the northern part of the country at Bron-Eryr, which I have before described, I was induced to examine the surface soil. Mr. David Williams's men performed the operation of washing rather rudely, but they succeeded in obtaining gold. The red earth is here exactly of the same character of soil as is washed in the dry diggings of Australia; and this indication, with the discoveries of gold already made on the property, induced me to examine it. The formation is, however, very patchy, and locally distributed, and the stuff similar to some I washed in Cumberland. It is interesting as highly indicative of the character of the quartz in the immediate vicinity.

Most of the auriferous lodes I have found or seen in this part of the

country generally run east-north-east, and in some instances east and west, and commonly they dip to the north. There were many parallel quartz veins crossing the country, and millions of tons of quartz lie exposed and jutting out on the mountain sides, open to the test of the explorer.

In reference to the arrangements I have now in progress for the reduction of gold and other ores, I may state that they include among others the following modes for operating on the mineral. One mode is by the application of battery power on a large scale, effecting electro-chemical decomposition. I likewise take advantage in some processes of chemical action; in others of positive heat. In the amalgamating machine which I propose to adopt, I shall secure a continuous supply of fresh mercury. This I look upon as highly useful, and though propositions have been made for using a mass of mercury, to be locked up for a month, I am not inclined to accede to the utility of such an application. The old practice of open-air decomposition I consider to be exceedingly useful for the treatment of several ores, and particularly some gold ones. Economical stamping is of the highest value with ores of poor average. Besides machinery of my own invention, I intend to avail myself of many valuable inventions which are placed at my disposal. A further specification of the modes of procedure is prevented by the necessity of obtaining patents in several countries.

MELTING POINT AND TRANSFORMATIONS OF SULPHUR.

Mr. B. C. Brodie, F.R.S., read a paper on Sulphur, at the Royal Society—in the course of which he remarked that in the various treatises of chemistry, great discrepancies exist respecting the melting point of sulphur, so much so that he was led to make several experiments, with the view of discovering, if possible, the true laws which regulate the transformations of sulphur and its liquidation. The melting point of sulphur varies according to its allotropic condition. This condition is readily altered by heat, and invariably, without peculiar precautions, by melting. Hence the temperature at which sulphur melts is different from that at which it will solidify, or at which, having been melted, it will melt again. The melting point of the octohedral sulphur is 114.5 deg. But from the facility with which this sulphur, when heated even below its melting point, passes into the sulphur of the oblique system, this fact may readily be overlooked. When this sulphur, even in the shape of fine powder, is heated for the shortest time, between 100 deg. and 114.5 deg., this change cannot be avoided. For the transformation of large crystals a longer time is required. At a certain point the crystals become opaque, and are often broken in pieces at the moment of the change. When sulphur has been converted by heating a sufficient length of time, it acquires a fixed melting point of 120 deg. This is the melting point of the oblique prismatic sulphur. If sulphur thus converted be carefully melted, so as to raise the temperature as little as possible above the melting point, no sensible difference will be observed between the point of melting and that of solidification. To obtain this fixed melting point of 120 deg., care must be taken that the transformation of the sulphur has been thoroughly effected. If this be not done, it may melt at any point between 114.5 deg. and 120 deg. If, however, the temperature of the melted sulphur be raised above its melting point of 120 deg., the point of solidification will be altered, and will lie even below the first melting point of 114.5 deg. The sulphur which is insoluble in bi-sulphide of carbon. This is prepared by extracting the hardened viscid sulphur with that re-agent, which has a melting point considerably above 120 deg., but which the author has not been able to determine with precision. It is stated in chemical treatises that the opacity, which on solidification comes over the melted sulphur, is due to the transformation of the oblique prismatic into the octohedral sulphur, and the consequent disruption of the crystal. To this cause is also attributed the evolution of heat, which has been observed in solid sulphur immediately after cooling. There are, however, no sufficient grounds for this view, and some of the observations are decidedly adverse to it. On extracting melted sulphur which had become opaque with the bi-sulphide of carbon, traces of insoluble matter were constantly found, even when the greatest precaution had been taken to avoid elevation of temperature, and this opacity appears to be due to the hardening of the viscid sulphur, and the consequent deposition of opaque matter in the pores of the crystals, which is quite sufficient to account for it. It remains, therefore, to ascertain the cause of the evolution of the heat; and on this point the author suggests that when the sulphur is tempered the change takes place very slowly, and the heat evolved is not perceived. This view is confirmed by a fact that the viscid sulphur possesses another solid form. The author has found, moreover, that when sulphur melted at a high temperature is suddenly exposed to intense cold, such as the cold of solid carbonic acid and ether, the sulphur formed is not viscid, but solid, hard, and perfectly transparent. When the temperature is allowed to rise to that of the air, the sulphur becomes soft and elastic. It is probable that this is the true solid form of the viscid sulphur.

CAPE NORTON'S RAILWAY SIGNALS.—Sir Colman O'Loughlin, Q.C., accompanied by a numerous staff of gentlemen of the "long robe," have witnessed Capt. Norton's practice with his railway signals in the Victoria Park, near to the Cork and Passage Terminus. Three different signals were successfully fired—the first was attached to the broad head of an ash-rod; a string being tied at one end in the eye of the twisted friction-wire, and the other end fastened round Capt. Norton's waist; the arrow was then shot nearly perpendicularly from a lancewood bow of about 50 lbs. strength, made by himself. When the pull of the wire at the end of the line fired the signal, which was charged with an ounce of Hall's rifle-powder, the length of the string was 60 ft. This signal of minute thunder and lightning is to be used by the hand of a train that assistant, which brings it to a stand still, as was the case in the Straffan catastrophe. The brilliant flash and loud report of this thunder is to warn the coming train not to run into the one that is disabled and in "a fix." The next three signals were fixed on the head of the arrow, and shot at an elevation of about 45°—they all severally exploded on falling on the soft grass alluvial soil, at about 100 yards distance. These signals are to be used by the guard of a train, when he wishes to communicate with the driver of the engine from the extreme rear of the train; they can be shot in a direct line over the entire train, of whatever length it may be, and can be made to fall on the road from 50 to 100 yards in front of the driver of the engine; the vivid flash and sharp report of the exploded signal is sure to be seen and heard by him. The impulse of the running train preserves the relative impulse from the bow. The third signal fired was similar in construction to the first—Capt. Norton tied it to a post, then pulled the attached cord and fired it. For signalling at sea, it may be attached to a cord having a small swivel at one end, and being instantly drawn up to the mast-head, when a sudden pull, like that of a bell-string, explodes it with a vivid flash and continued white or other coloured light. This signal may be used in cases where snow covers the rails, it being secured to a post on one or both sides of the road, the coming engine presses against the connecting-line, and fires one or both such signals. In like manner it can be used at sea; in case of fog, it may be attached to a buoy, the coming vessel presses against the connecting-line, and fires one or both signals, or submarine explosive shells. This manner of firing explosive-charges, either above or below water, is more ready, available, and efficient than a voltaic battery. Sir C. O'Loughlin, and the gentlemen with him, expressed themselves highly pleased with the simplicity and efficiency of these railway signals. Capt. Norton's next practice, on the same ground, will be with the signals having heads, such as a lady's thimble, charged with Vallancienne's composition, or as some call it Greek fire, which will burn with a bright light, that cannot be extinguished in or on the ground for more than a minute after the explosion of the signal. A few hundred of these inextinguishable Greek fire pellets, enclosed in their calico "night caps," put into a 10 in. concussion-shell, would make a very efficient asphaltum-shell, for destroying anything intended to be set on fire.

ROASTING IRON ORES ASSISTED BY A JET OF STEAM.—In 1843, Von Nordenskjöld recommended some trials to be made in roasting magnetic iron ore containing pyrites, with the assistance of a jet of steam, at the Iron works of Dals Bruick, in Russian Finland. The roasting was effected in a kind of reverberatory furnace, prepared by Count Romford, and was effective, the whole of the sulphur having been completely decomposed. The pig-iron subsequently produced from that ore yielded an excellent bar-iron, without the slightest trace of red-sear. Since then the process has been much used both in Finland and in the Ural, as well with charcoal as with waste gas from the tunnel head. In 1845, Nordenskjöld improved the construction of the roasting furnace, by given them almost the exact form of the Norwegian and Swedish gas furnaces. In order that the action of the steam be fully effective in roasting the ore, there must be a corresponding access of air. The gas and steam, and sulphurated hydrogen. If the latter, as fast as formed, meets with a sufficient quantity of air, it will burn, producing sulphurous acid, which in its passage through the ore produces no injurious action. If, however, there be not sufficient access of air, a portion of the sulphurated hydrogen in passing over an oxidised ore, beyond the direct action of the current of steam, would be decomposed, producing water and sulphure of iron again. This process of Nordenskjöld is of great importance, independent of the improvement which may be effected in the quality of the iron, by the almost complete removal of the sulphur, inasmuch as it renders the process of roasting the ores, by means of the waste gases from the tunnel head, perfect, and effects a great saving in the amount of fuel consumed in this part of the process of iron smelting as to lower the cost of production very considerably.—Scheerer's Metallurgie.

SAFETY LAMP.—M. Chuard has been endeavouring to improve the construction of the safety lamp, so as to render it, as far as possible, safe; and although he has not as yet succeeded in reducing his plan to practice, he has been so far successful as to induce a commission of the French Institute to award him a prize of 500 francs, as an encouragement to proceed with his praiseworthy efforts. He proposes that the air should only arrive at the flame after having passed through a considerable length of metallic tube, the orifice of which is capable of being closed by a piston, kept suspended by a thread in a particular way. If the quantity of fire-damp should so increase as to produce an explosive mixture, a portion will burn in the interior of the lamp and consume the thread, by which the piston will fall and close the air tube before the flame can pass through the gauze.—Comptes Rendus de l'Académie.

IRON MANUFACTURE AND MACHINERY IN AMERICA.

Among the numerous miscellaneous facts which Mr. Whitworth has brought together in a paper which he has published, containing the results of observations made during his tour among the manufacturing districts of America, which he undertook in consequence of being prevented from making a report upon the machinery in the New York Exhibition are some of considerable interest, showing the progress made in that country. In pickling light iron castings in England, it has been usual to immerse them in dilute acid, for a sufficient time to perfect the process. In the United States, probably from the great demand for labour, a plan has been adopted, by which the pickling is more rapidly effected. The castings are placed on wooden stages, covered with lead—20 ft. long by 12 ft. wide, supported on rollers, 18 in. from the floor, by which they can be made to incline at any angle, and in both directions. The trough containing the pickle—one part acid to two and a half parts water—is of the same length as the stages, and is placed at the lower end to catch the drainings. The dilute acid is poured over the castings by hand from a long-handled ladle, and when dry the operation is repeated as often as is necessary. The stages are cleaned from the coating of acid and sand which remains on them, by a powerful stream of water from a hose pipe. A peculiar method of annealing the leading and trailing wheels of a locomotive engine has been adopted in a large manufactory in Philadelphia. The wheels, which are generally cast-iron hollow disc wheels, are taken from the moulds before they contract from cooling, and as soon as they can bear moving without altering their form; they are then placed in a circular furnace, previously heated to a temperature about equal to that of the wheels when taken from the moulds. The opening is then closed, and the temperature raised to a point a little below that of fusion. All the avenues to the interior of the furnace are then closed, and the whole is left to cool gradually, the heat penetrating through the exterior wall, composed of fire-brick, 4½ in. thick, surrounded by a sheet-iron casing, ½ in. thick. By this process the wheel is raised throughout to one temperature before it begins to cool, and its heat can only pass off through the wall every part cools and contracts equally and simultaneously with other parts. The time required to cool a furnace full of wheels is about four days; and by the process they may be made of almost any form and proportion, and with a solid nave. The manufactory by this process was commenced in 1847, and in 1850 the quantity finished per day was 15 tons. The foundry and works, as soon as completed, are capable of turning out 40 tons per day. In another establishment the mass of metal near the centre of the wheel is cooled, which, in some measure, prevents unequal contraction. To effect this the wheel is lifted hot from the mould, and the centre placed in a hole communicating by a flue with a chimney, and the edge packed round with sand; a draft is thus obtained, which effects the object. In some cases the wheels, when cast, are placed in a pit of white sand, and left to cool gradually. Cold blast iron, made with charcoal, is employed. There is in the United States a large demand for railroad spikes; on nearly all the lines the plan adopted being to lay the rails on transverse wooden sleepers, and simply to fasten them down by iron spikes with projecting heads, except at the junction of two ends of rails, where the ordinary chair is used. In a manufactory of Pittsburgh a machine was at one time capable of making 50 per minute, of ½ lb. each. They are packed in kegs, each containing 300; and, with only seven men employed, the works are capable of manufacturing 5 tons of spikes per day.

In another establishment at Pittsburgh 250 men are employed in manufacturing bar-iron, rods, sheets, and nails. There are 51 machines for cutting nails, many of them self-feeding for the smaller sizes. As many as 2000 kegs are made per week, each weighing 100 lbs. One machine for making rivets turns out 80 per minute, of 7 to the pound. The manufactory of cast-steel is not carried on to any great extent. Some works were established at Pittsburgh, in which at first great difficulties were met with, but they have latterly been more successful. They have two converting and nine melting furnaces, producing 2000 lbs. of steel per day, which realises \$8½ per lb. The engine-tools employed are of old form of construction, and inferior to those in use in England. Slide and hand lathes are common, as also planing and drilling machines, but very few shaping machines, horizontal or vertical, and much hand-labour is, therefore, expended on work which could be much better performed, and more economically, by machinery. The foundries generally are large and well arranged, and furnished with powerful cranes.

ELECTRIC INSULATORS.—Dr. Turnbull, at the February meeting of the Franklin Institute, at Philadelphia, described two new kinds of insulators for telegraph posts; one being a modification of the form designed by Mr. J. M. Bachevalier, of Boston, but omitting the employment of iron. It is composed of quartz and glass, thoroughly vitrified on the surface, is very compact, equal to the best form of glass insulators, but much stronger. The form is that of a cap, with a ridge for the purpose of fastening the wire, with an inverted edge to direct the rain downwards, and prevent moisture entering the inside of the cap. Mr. Bachevalier is endeavouring to modify and improve this insulator still further, as it would, by the moisture settling upon it, conduct the electricity to the ground. He proposes to give it a kind of downy covering, to cause the moisture to remain in an isolated state on it. The other insulating substance is composed of the best insulator known, castor-oil, change is produced in this substance by heat, rendering it impervious to moisture, heat, and rapid decomposition. It is of a dark colour, and has a shining new-iron struck. It does not soften in water at 212°; strong sulphuric acid has no effect on it, and even pure nitric acid does not alter its elasticity, but merely changes the colour to a yellow. This acid alters common caoutchouc into a mass of a brown colour, which on pressure falls into a powder. It burns freely, giving off acetaldehyde, if combined with metallic oxides, and leaving a polished surface; while ordinary caoutchouc, when burned, gives a pyro-oil which stains the fingers. The new substance has all the qualifications of a good insulator.

IMPROVEMENTS IN FURNACES.—Mr. Horton has obtained letters patent for a novel arrangement of furnaces for steam-boilers, combining great economy with an entire prevention of smoke. In addition to the furnace formed in the usual manner, with stationary fire-bars, an extra grate is placed at right angles with each side, forming in all three separate fires, communicating at one bridge, which is common to all. The fire runs direct through the boiler, similarly to the Cornish system, but a number of tubes communicating with the water cross it, and all run with great facility of receiving heat from the furnace, and getting rid of steam with great rapidity. The inventor has hit upon a new mode of supplying the fire with air, in the different stages of combustion of the fuel. A tube is introduced, one end of which is placed immediately above the furnace-door, closed with a valve, by which the quantity of air may be regulated as required, and terminating directly below the bridge, where the flames of the furnaces unite, and by the supply thus afforded, the emission of dense smoke is prevented. By these arrangements, the course of the flame and heated air surrounds the lower half of the boiler and its cross-tubes, all keeps up a well regulated temperature; and the patentee states in his proposition that, in addition to the prevention of smoke, a saving of 35 per cent. is effected in the consumption of fuel; while he confidently anticipates that the furnace and boiler will be found more durable than common ones, as, by the system of arrangement, the plates are less liable to injurious action from the fire. By feeding the three furnaces alternately, the dense smoke from one passes over the incandescent fuel on the others, the carbonaceous particles are consumed, and only an invisible vapour escapes from the chimney top. A very slight attention on the part of the stoker, in regularly charging the grates alternately, will secure the above described advantages.

CONSUMPTION OF FUEL IN STEAM-ENGINES WITH SINGLE AND DOUBLE CYLINDERS.—M. Faroot, machinist, at Port St. Owen, has made experiments upon two machines made by him for the plate-glass manufactory of St. Gobin, which he serves as a basis for a rigorous comparison between machines of one and two cylinders. The experiments were made under the direction of Mr. Laforet, engineer-in-chief of works at Chauny. The first machine, with two cylinders, has a nominal power of 30-horse, and makes 28 revolutions per minute. When tried on the 20th Oct., during five hours, at 38-horse power, under a pressure from 4.75 to 5 atmospheres, it consumed less than 1.15 kil. (2½ lb.) of common charcoal per horse power per hour. Afterwards tried at 45-horse power, it worked with the greatest ease. The second machine is horizontal, has but one cylinder, working at 42 revolutions per minute, and is also nominally 30-horse power. Tried for five hours, on the 28th Oct., it consumed only 1.106 kil. (2.4 lb.) per horse power per hour. Afterwards tried at 40-horse power, it gave no evidence of injury to any of its running parts. These two 40-horse machines have now been in regular service for several months, and work usually with a force of from 40 to 45-horse power. It has been hitherto admitted that the double-cylinder machines expended less steam and fuel than those with one cylinder. The preceding experiments show that, when well constructed, the expenditure in the double-cylinder machines is not less than in the single-cylinder machines. The following choices work more regularly, it is now certain that, practically, the one-cylinder machines of M. Faroot work with a perfect regularity. Horizontal (oscillating) engines, for instance, drive spinning machinery and paper works more regularly than the vertical engines, which they replace, and actually leave nothing to be desired. The draught, for equal force, is less than that of fixed machines, and their velocity is in better adjustment to that of the shafts which they drive. Our readers will observe the low rate of consumption in these two machines; it is much less than that required by the best engines turning an axis hitherto known. The arts have, therefore, been benefited in this respect in an immense progress of 2 or even 3 kilogrammes (4½ or 6½ lb.) per horse power per hour. This advance is especially due to the Society for the encouragement of National Industry, for they have always excited, proved, maintained, and recompensed it.—Comptes.

AMERICAN COAL FIELDS.—Let us for a moment take a glance at the immense extent of the formation that covers large portions of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Eastern Ohio, the eastern part of Kentucky, a part of Middle Tennessee, an undelimited portion of Alabama, the vast coal country in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and a considerable portion of Michigan, and we find that the coal resources of the United States (2d volume), contains the largest coal fields, or rather, coal fields of coal fields, in the known world. This coal field alone would cover half of Europe, having an extent of 900,000 square miles, or 1500 miles in length, by 600 miles in breadth.—United States Mining Journal.

DIVIDENDS OF PROFITS DECLARED
By Seventy-eight Cornish and Six Devonshire Copper, Lead, and Tin Mines, during the last Eight
Years, ending December, 1853.

MINES.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	Total Amount for eight years.	Amount paid in Dividends prior to end of 1845.	Present Market Value. 3rd April.	Total Amount of present value together with Dividends paid to end of 1853.	Original Outlay.
Basset...	£ 1,280	£ ...	£ 1,280	£ 6,400	£ 14,080	£ 15,360	£ 21,760	£ 30,720	£ 90,880	£ 35,840	£ 179,200	£ 305,920	£ 2,624
Balteswidden...	2,040	933	...	2,922	3,451	3,247	1,948	2,307	16,848	8,894	11,000	36,742	18,270
Boscawell Downs...	...	...	...	800	...	...	...	...	800	47,200	...	48,000	...
Botallack...	1,500	...	...	...	1,000	1,500	2,550	6,500	13,050	44,000	72,000	129,050	18,350
Brewer...	600	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	3,840	...	4,440	1,024
Callington...	3,000	3,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,000	1,000	10,000	17,000	39,250
Carn Brea...	12,000	20,000	14,000	15,000	13,000	9,000	6,000	12,000	101,000	124,500	85,000	310,500	15,000
Chyprase...	1,239	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,239	...	...	1,239	2,360
Devon Great Consols...	37,888	15,360	30,720	34,304	40,960	40,960	46,080	65,024	311,296	64,512	440,320	816,128	1,024
Dolcoath...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,595	153,707	16,110	172,412	46,137
East Crofty...	3,995	1,880	...	470	...	...	...	...	6,345	72,615	9,400	88,360	11,750
East Rose...	30,720	34,560	25,500	17,920	16,000	9,280	2,240	...	136,220	171,140	16,000	323,360	6,400
Fowey Consols...	...	...	...	...	1,976	...	...	...	1,976	202,644	9,880	214,500	20,480
Friendship...	5,220	2,560	2,240	3,840	2,880	1,536	1,024	3,584	22,884	280,156	12,800	315,840	...
Great Consols...	...	3,500	...	960	960	...	...	...	5,420	28,508	...	33,928	96,000
Great Work...	...	...	...	2,677	4,165	2,975	3,451	2,082	15,350	4,404	17,850	37,604	11,900
Levant...	...	1,280	...	6,720	4,000	3,040	390	...	15,680	150,400	16,000	182,080	400
Margaret...	2,016	6,720	3,136	4,368	3,136	1,568	392	952	22,288	1,792	15,680	39,760	8,848
North Roskear...	4,550	2,450	1,820	1,120	2,800	4,270	910	2,380	20,300	14,700	21,000	56,000	1,400
Owles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	996	5,036	40,000	50,852	5,600
Par Consols...	...	3,072	12,800	19,200	12,800	5,120	15,360	4,800	73,152	75,968	51,200	200,320	7,200
Providence Mines...	...	...	...	3,640	3,576	1,680	...	840	8,736	2,870	9,800	21,406	11,550
Seaton...	8,910	11,880	8,415	1,584	5,940	4,752	3,366	49,599	49,599	54,450	104,049	214,110	21,186
South Caradon...	6,400	7,680	3,840	640	384	3,840	1,280	6,400	30,464	46,846	76,800	154,110	640
South Frances...	744	9,796	5,704	7,192	10,478	10,416	6,696	6,076	57,102	992	62,000	120,094	9,393
St. Ives Consols...	4,700	...	...	470	282	1,222	1,974	1,410	10,058	73,414	11,750	95,222	7,520
Stray Park...	3,000	4,000	500	1,000	3,000	...	...	...	11,500	1,000	10,000	22,500	10,375
Tamar Consols...	...	...	...	5,760	...	...	...	...	5,760	37,920	14,400	58,080	43,200
Tincroft...	3,000	...	...	2,100	3,150	...	3,150	3,150	14,550	27,000	21,000	62,550	49,000
Trelawney...	3,120	...	...	3,640	5,720	2,340	...	5,200	20,020	1,560	18,720	40,300	4,615
Trenow Consols...	1,280	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,280	...	...	1,280	5,120
Treavean...	1,728	1,968	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,696	449,094	28,800	481,590	3,120
Trethellan...	2,400	1,200	1,200	...	600	300	...	...	5,700	42,741	1,440	49,881	900
Treviskey and Barrier...	1,920	5,910	2,180	3,120	8,760	6,780	4,770	540	33,980	3,020	4,800	41,800	15,600
United Mines...	7,500	2,500	1,000	2,000	1,000	500	5,000	11,600	31,100	438,900	64,000	534,000	16,000
West Caradon...	8,320	4,864	2,460	3,840	1,920	4,224	7,424	10,496	43,548	18,212	64,000	125,760	5,120
West Providence...	768	704	409	2,048	1,024	2,560	10,752	6,656	24,921	...	32,768	57,689	5,120
Ball...	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	4,320	4,440	1,560	...
Franco...	...	388	...	388	...	...	...	...	776	...	...	776	10,476
North Pool...	...	1,000	7,750	11,750	14,250	9,000	5,500	7,000	56,250	35,000	91,250	4,500	...
Sisters...	...	1,024	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,024	...	...	1,024	7,616
Spearne Consols...	...	700	256	880	1,376	1,920	2,048	896	8,076	6,144	14,220	1,280	...
Trehane...	...	1,280	1,472	2,688	896	1,024	128	2,048	9,536	9,000	18,536	1,536	...
Treleigh Consols...	...	4,500	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	5,500	5,000	10,500	30,000	...
Vyvan...	...	552	...	...	...	...	...	...	552	...	...	552	...
Bedford United...	...	...	2,000	3,000	4,000	4,600	4,000	4,700	22,300	35,000	57,300	9,500	...
Buller...	...	...	...	2,560	13,120	17,920	24,960	45,440	104,000	256,000	360,000	1,280	...
Comfort...	...	1,654	768	...	...	...	...	...	2,422	3,840	6,262	19,200	...
Condurrow...	...	...	1,536	1,280	512	2,304	4,608	10,240	35,840	46,080	5,120	48,128	...
Great Polgooth...	...	...	5,504	...	1,100	4,950	...	11,554	15,000	26,554	48,128	2,680	...
Mary Ann...	...	...	640	5,632	4,608	1,024	1,792	13,696	16,000	29,696	18,176	9,856	...
Tremayne...	...	...	512	3,328	3,584	3,072	512	11,008	7,168	2,688	2,560	4,888	...
Wellington...	...	...	896	1,024	768	...	...	...	2,688	...	...	...	...
Alfred Consols...	...	...	...	2,048	9,472	16,128	20,736	48,384	122,880	171,264	14,234	14,234	...
Friendly...	...	...	500	...	...	...	...	...	500	2,000	2,500	7,000	...
Lewis...	...	...	...	500	1,500	...	...	...	2,000	10,000	12,000	17,000	...
Lovell...	...	...	...	860	3,440	4,300	1,720	10,320	21,500	31,820	14,190	...	...
North Basset...	...	...	...	3,000	1,500	1,500	6,000	12,000	42,000	54,000	...	...	...
Penzance Consols...	...	...	...	128	...	...	...	...	128	2,000	2,128	3,656	...
Reeth...	...	...	...	3,000	3,000	2,500	...	8,500	5,760	14,260	4,980	...	...
South Tolgus...	...	...	...	...	3,712	4,224	7,168	2,304	17,408	32,000	49,408	4,096	...
Calstock United...	...	...	...	...	1,000	...	...	...	1,000	10,000	11,000	13,500	...
Golden...	...	...	...	...	3,250	1,250	...	4,500	8,750	13,250	20,000	8,704	...
Herodasfoot...	...	...	...	...	384	...	1,920	2,304	7,680	9,984	3,440	...	...
Perran St. George...	...	...	...	...	2,030	...	...	2,030	5,000	7,030	3,440	...	...
Phoenix...	...	...	...	...	3,000	10,000	...	13,000	100,000	113,000	6,000	...	...
Polberrow...	...	...	...	...	2,680	...	3,283	5,963	14,000	19,963	15,000	...	...
Trumpet Consols...	...	...	...	...	500	2,000	2,000	4,500	15,000	19,500	9,500	...	...
Clifford...	...	...	...	...	...	360	568	928	25,000	25,928	...	...	...
Drake Walls...	...	...	...	...	...	640	960	1,600	3,500	5,100	4,060	...	...
Exmouth and Adams...	...	...	...	...	...	1,070	1,605	2,675	42,800	45,475	20,973	...	...
Gonamena...	...	...	...	...	...	256	...	256	14,336	14,592	12,544	...	...
Great Onslow...	...	...	...	...	...	5,000	...	5,000	25,000	30,000	37,500	...	...
Jane...	...	...	...	...	...	256	1,792	2,048	10,240	12,288	...	...	...
Rix Hill...	...	...	...	...	...	389	779	1,168	3,896	5,064	6,818	...	...
South Tamar...	...	...	...	...	...	4,500	6,750	11,250	60,000	71,250	11,925	...	...
St. Anlyn and Grylls...	...	...	...	...	...	896	...	896	3,072	3,968	3,072	...	...
Arthur...	...	...	...	...	...	...	614	614	36,840	37,454	11,063	...	...
Mark Valley...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750	750	30,000	30,750	27,150	...	...
Mendip Hills...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500	2,500	12,500	15,000	18,750	...	...
Treylon...	...	...	...	...	...	...	429	429	1,716	2,145	6,578	...	...
Treweatha...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,024	1,024	20,480	21,504	11,264	...	...
West Darlington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256	256	2,560	2,816	19,952	...	...
West Treasury...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,024	1,024	5,120	6,144	10,487	...	...
	159,838	153,381	129,682	185,743	225,464	217,486	255,028	317,048	1,645,670	2,631,365	2,628,510	6,905,545	1,014,069

42, Lombard-street, City, April 6.

RICHARD TREDINNICK, Mining Broker.

REUBEN PLANT'S PATENT MINERS' SAFETY-LAMP

MANUFACTURED BY
SALT AND LLOYD,
BIRMINGHAM.

The great obstacle with which the working miner has had to contend in the use of the ordinary safety-lamp is its small amount of illuminative power, by which his work is much curtailed in quantity. The great desideratum of an abundance of illuminative power, combined with safety, is now secured by this patent, in which, by the employment of glass internal cylinders, and metallic gauze of silvery whiteness, a light far superior to a naked candle is obtained; and there is no inducement to the men to remove the tops of the lamps.

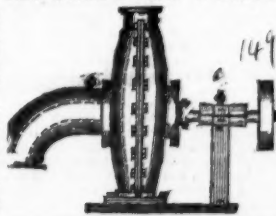
"A lamp which, with all the simplicity of the Davy, and with great reduction in weight, has very great illuminative power, and possesses the elements of perfect safety."—*Mining Journal*.



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AND SIZES, FOR GAS, STEAM, AND WATER. LAP-WELDED FLUES
FOR BOILERS. GALVANIZED TUBES, SHEET-IRON, &c.—Messrs. JOHN
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Contractors, Builders, Engineers,
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facturers, Local Boards of Health, Pro-
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in RAISING WATER or OTHER LI-
QUIDS (hot or cold), will find it to their
INTEREST to USE THESE PUMPS.
For ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY, DU-
RABILITY, SIMPLICITY, and POWER,
they are unparalleled. Are equally well
adapted for lifting, forcing, draining, and
irrigating.
For the fullest information and testi-
mony, apply to Messrs. G WYNNE and Co.,
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G WYNNE'S PATENT STEAM FUEL.—The object of these
PATENTS is a NEW PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING a very valuable FUEL
for STEAM and OTHER PURPOSES from small coal, slack, or anthracite culm. The
advantages are:—
1. Economy in the space required for stowage, being denser than ordinary coal, or the
patent fuels now in use.
2. No loss from attrition on long voyages.
3. Freedom from moisture.
4. Non-liability to spontaneous combustion.
5. Perfect cleanliness in use, and no disagreeable smell from it in the process of com-
bustion.
6. Little or no smoke when the fires are properly kindled.
7. No loss of any of its qualities by exposure to the atmosphere, or in a tropical
climate.
8. Its steaming and enduring qualities are great; it is easily lighted, and the me-
chanical form of the blocks causes a steady and powerful fire at all times.
9. Its cost, in comparison with the heating and other qualities it possesses, is below
that of any other fuel now in use.
All applications for licenses, machinery, &c., to manufacture under these patents,
to be addressed to G WYNNE and Co., engineers, Essex-wharf, strand, London.
NEW PATENT ACT, 1852.—Mr. CAMPIN, having advocated
Patent Law Reform before the Government and Legislature, and in the pages
of the *Mining Journal*, &c., is now READY TO ADVISE and ASSIST INVENTORS
IN OBTAINING PATENTS, &c., under the NEW ACT.
The Circular of Information, gratis, on application to the Patent Office and De-
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IRON (superior process).—J. SKAIFE supplies this metal in every form,
viz., SHEETS, PLAIN and CORRUGATED, of all sizes and gauges; WIRE of every
gauge, and WIRE NETTING of all descriptions; GUTTERING; BATH-WATER,
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READY GALVANIZED. Estimates and drawings given for roofs and buildings
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